

wherein the second engagement member is adapted to automatically disengage from the first engagement member in response to the snowboard boot stepping out of engagement with the binding.

58. (Amended) The snowboard binding of claim 55, wherein the second engagement member is adapted to underlie a toe area of the snowboard boot, and wherein the second engagement member includes means for resisting release of the first engagement member from the pair of spaced apart engagement members in response to a lifting force generated at the toe area of the snowboard boot.

64. (Amended) The snowboard binding of claim 55, in combination with the snowboard boot, wherein the first engagement member includes a cleat having a base mounted to a sole of the snowboard boot and medial and lateral sides, and wherein the cleat has a wider base-end portion and a narrower free-end portion, and wherein the pair of spaced apart engagement members is spaced apart by a distance that is greater than the narrower free-end portion of the cleat and smaller than the wider base-end portion of the cleat.

REMARKS

A Notice of Allowance was mailed in the above-identified application on November 21, 2002. This amendment is filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.312 after allowance and before payment of the issue fee.

Initially, the undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Vanaman for his courtesies extended in amending the application with the Examiner's amendment and the Notice of Allowance mailed November 21, 2002.

Drawing

To place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants submit 24 sheets of formal drawings for Figs. 1-46. To place the drawings in conformance with current P.T.O.

practice, Applicants submit amendments to Figs. 4, 5, 13, 14, 20, 21, and 23. No new matter has been added.

More particularly, Applicants submit amendments to: Figure 4 adding reference numerals 117 and 101 and their corresponding lead lines; Fig. 5 adding reference numerals 77, 101, and 111 and their corresponding lead lines; Fig. 13 changing reference numeral 15 to reference numeral 119; Fig. 14 adding reference numeral 7 and its corresponding lead line directed to the boot shown in phantom; Fig. 20 adding reference numerals 305, 307, and 309 and their corresponding lead lines; Fig. 21 adding reference numeral 305 and its corresponding lead line and removing a portion of the lead line associated with reference numeral 307; and Fig. 23 adding reference numerals 347, 361, and 363 and their corresponding lead lines.

Specification

To correct a minor typographical error in the specification, Applicants submit an amendment to the specification as noted above.

Amended Claims

With this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 51, 58, and 64. Claims 29 and 44 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-28, 30-43, and 45-113 are pending with claims 1, 24, 33, 51, 54, 73, and 74 being the independent claims.

To correct minor typographical errors, Applicants respectfully submit an amendment to claims 51, 58 and 64. More particularly, in claim 58, Applicants change the word "fist" to "first". Applicants also submit an amendment to claim 51, inserting the word "first" between "compatible" and "engagement member" in line 8 of claim 51. Applicants have also amended claim 64 to recite a combination with the "snowboard boot" rather than the "binding," since the claim from which claim 64 depends already is directed toward a binding. These amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims and are not submitted to define over the prior art or for other reasons relating to patentability. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment by the Examiner at the earliest possible date. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the

undersigned by telephone to advance the prosecution in any respect. If there is a fee occasioned by this amendment, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Maravetz et al., *Applicants*

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MARKED-UP CLAIMS

51. (Amended) A snowboard boot adapted for use with a non-safety-releasable binding to mount the snowboard boot to a snowboard, the binding including a first engagement member, the snowboard boot comprising:

 a sole; and

 a second engagement member mounted to the sole to engage the first engagement member;

 wherein the second engagement member is an active second engagement member and the first engagement member is a compatible first engagement member that is engageable with the active second engagement member, the active second engagement member being movable, relative to the sole, from a first state wherein the active second engagement member does not engage the compatible first engagement member to a second state wherein the active second engagement member engages the compatible first engagement member to prevent safety release of the second engagement member from the first engagement member during riding; and

 wherein the second engagement member is adapted to automatically disengage from the first engagement member in response to the snowboard boot stepping out of engagement with the binding.

58. (Amended) The snowboard binding of claim 55, wherein the second engagement member is adapted to underlie a toe area of the snowboard boot, and wherein the second engagement member includes means for resisting release of the [fist] first engagement member from the pair of spaced apart engagement members in response to a lifting force generated at the toe area of the snowboard boot.

64. (Amended) The snowboard binding of claim 55, in combination with the [binding] snowboard boot, wherein the first engagement member includes a cleat having a base mounted to a sole of the snowboard boot and medial and lateral sides, and wherein the cleat has a wider base-end portion and a narrower free-end portion, and wherein the pair of spaced apart

engagement members is spaced apart by a distance that is greater than the narrower free-end portion of the cleat and smaller than the wider base-end portion of the cleat.

MARKED-UP SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning at page 10, line 30 has been amended as follows:

It should be appreciated that it is significantly more convenient for the rider to pop the back boot out of the binding with the interface 1 attached thereto than with some known systems wherein the entire binding can be popped off of the board. For example, U.S. patent no. 5,354,088 discloses a rear binding that can be popped [of] off the board to allow the rider to advance the board along the snow to negotiate a lift line. However, using that system, the rider has the entire binding attached to the back boot which is much less convenient than the interface 1. For example, the binding in the known system has a high-back attached thereto, resulting in the boot having a structure attached thereto that is not nearly as low profile as the interface 1 according to one illustrative embodiment of the invention. In addition, in the known system, the structure attached to the rider's boot includes complete toe and heel attachment mechanisms for binding the rider's foot to the board. In contrast, the interface 1 of the present invention does not extend forward of the ball area of the foot, again resulting in a more low profile structure attached to the rider's boot.

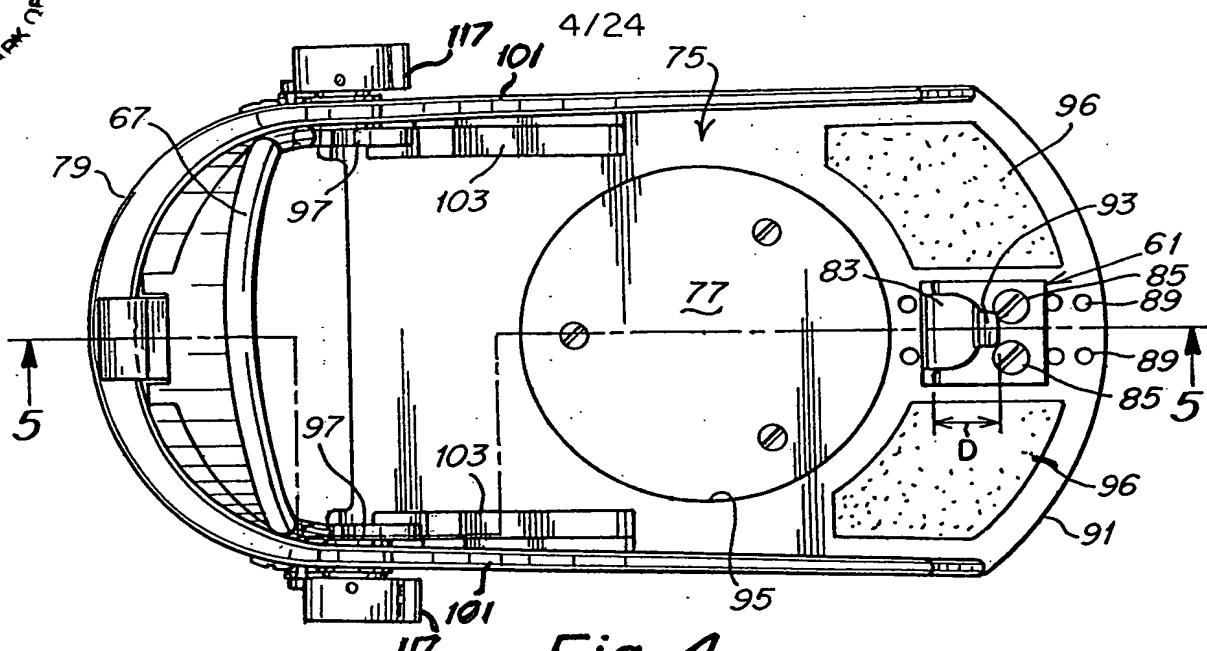


Fig. 4

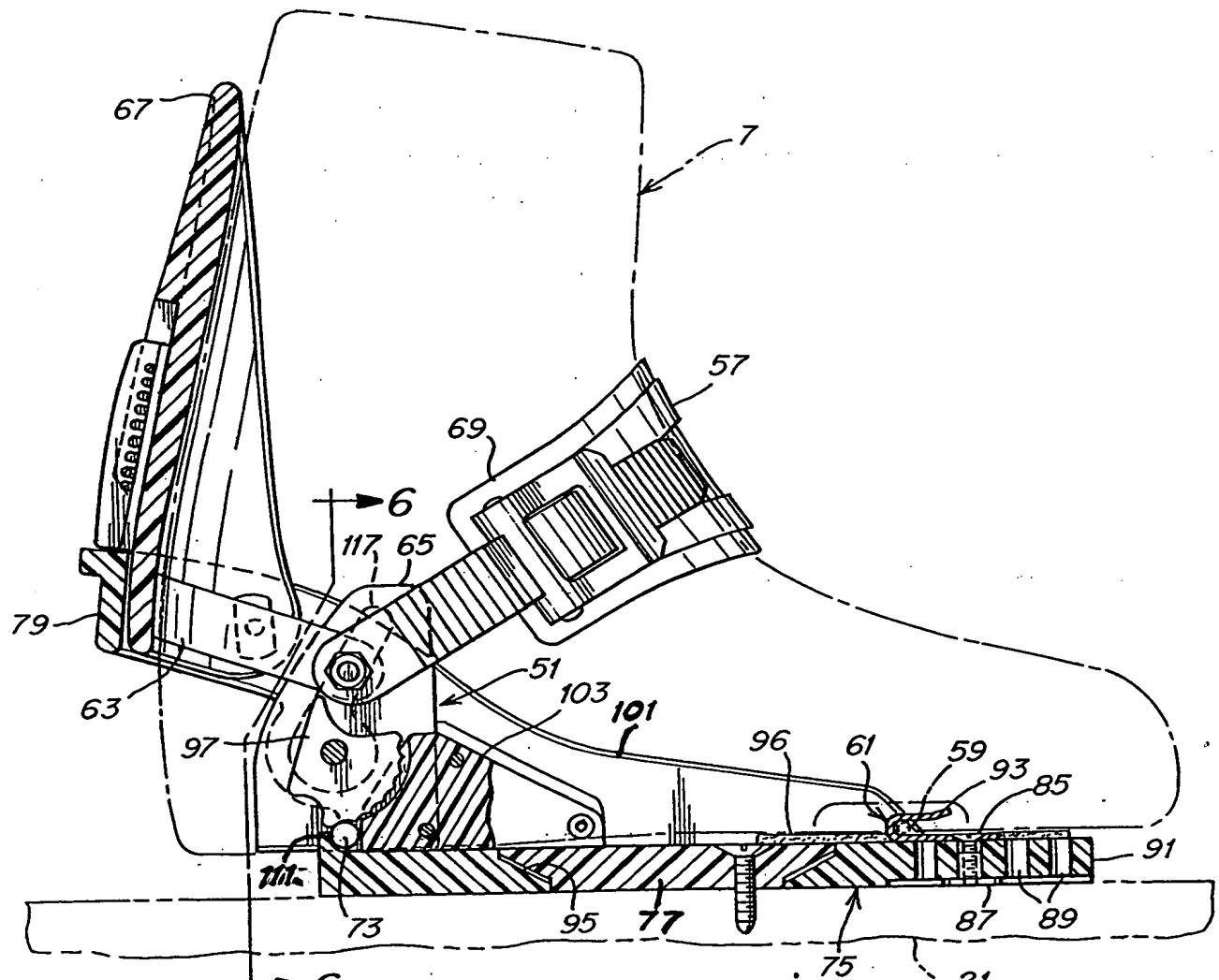
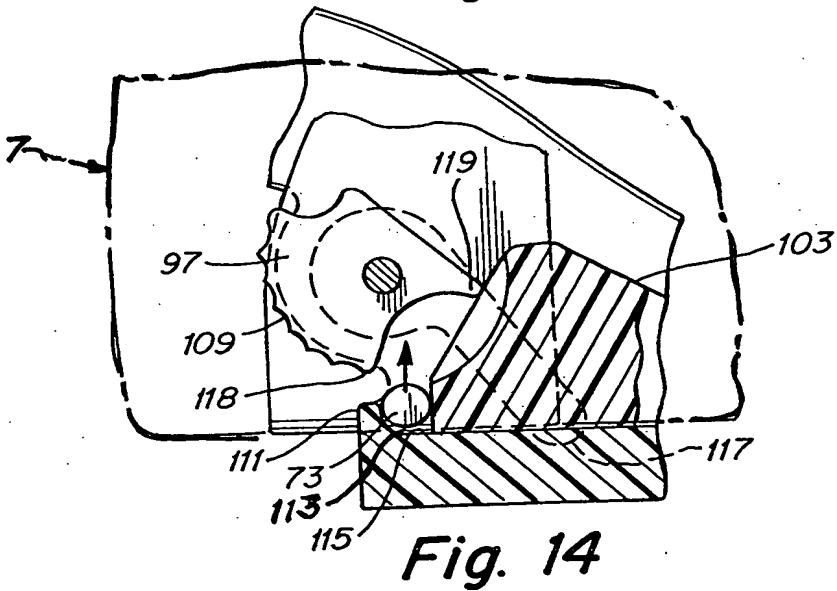
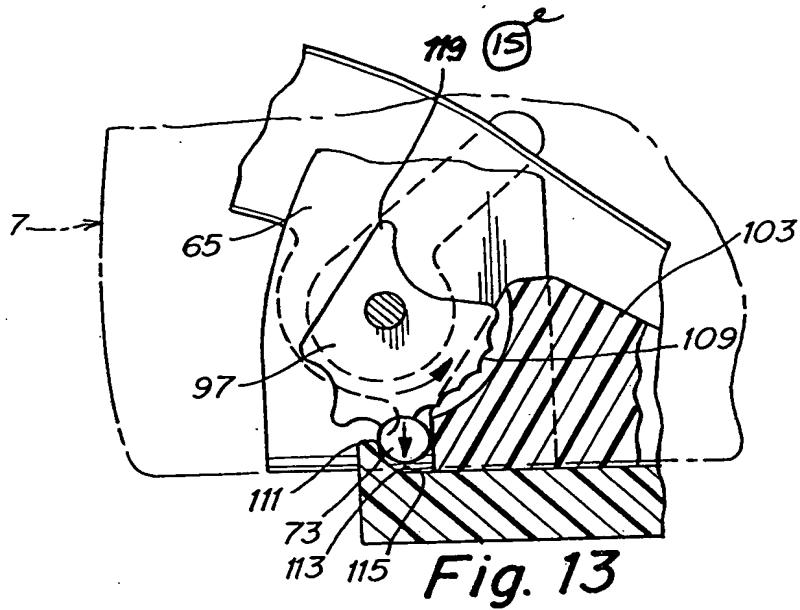


Fig. 5



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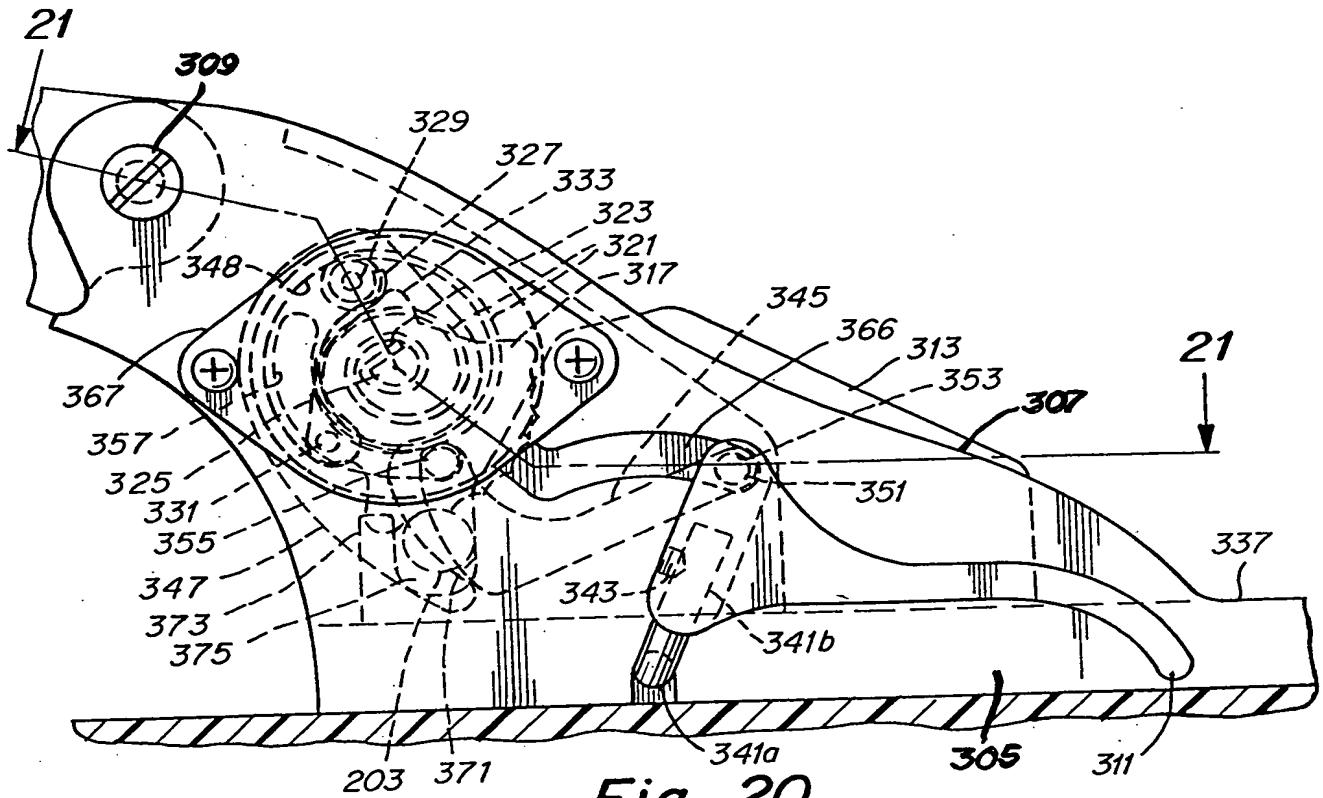


Fig. 20

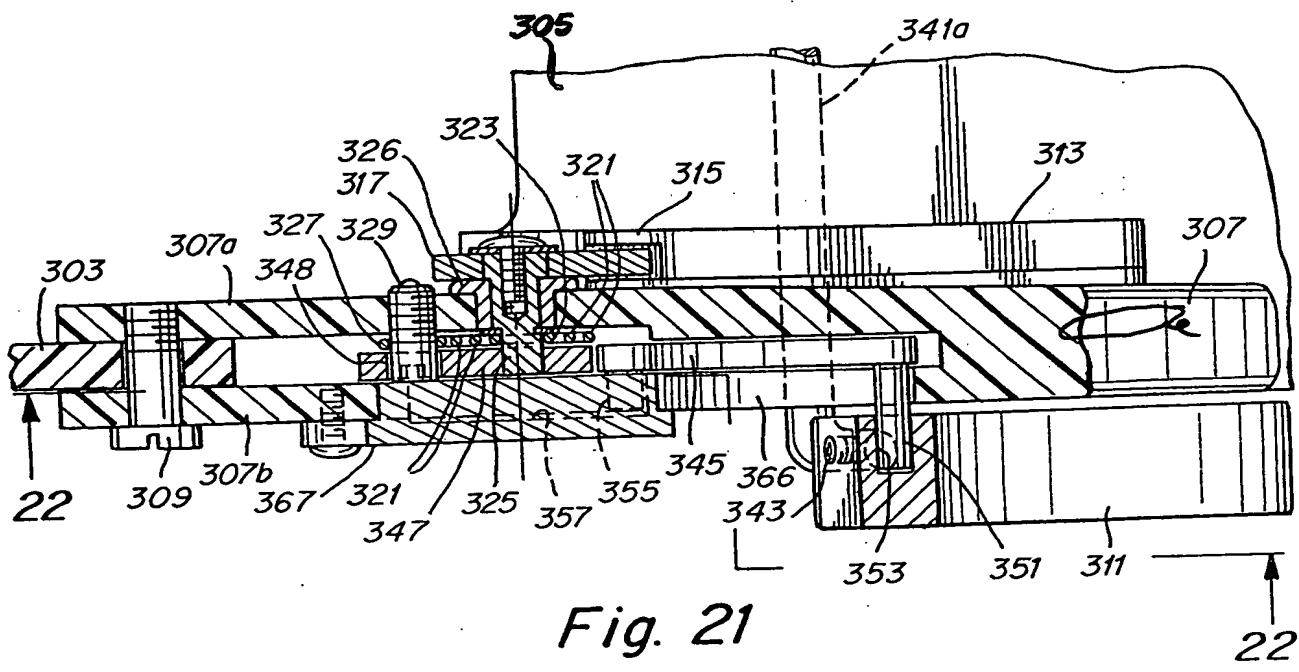


Fig. 21



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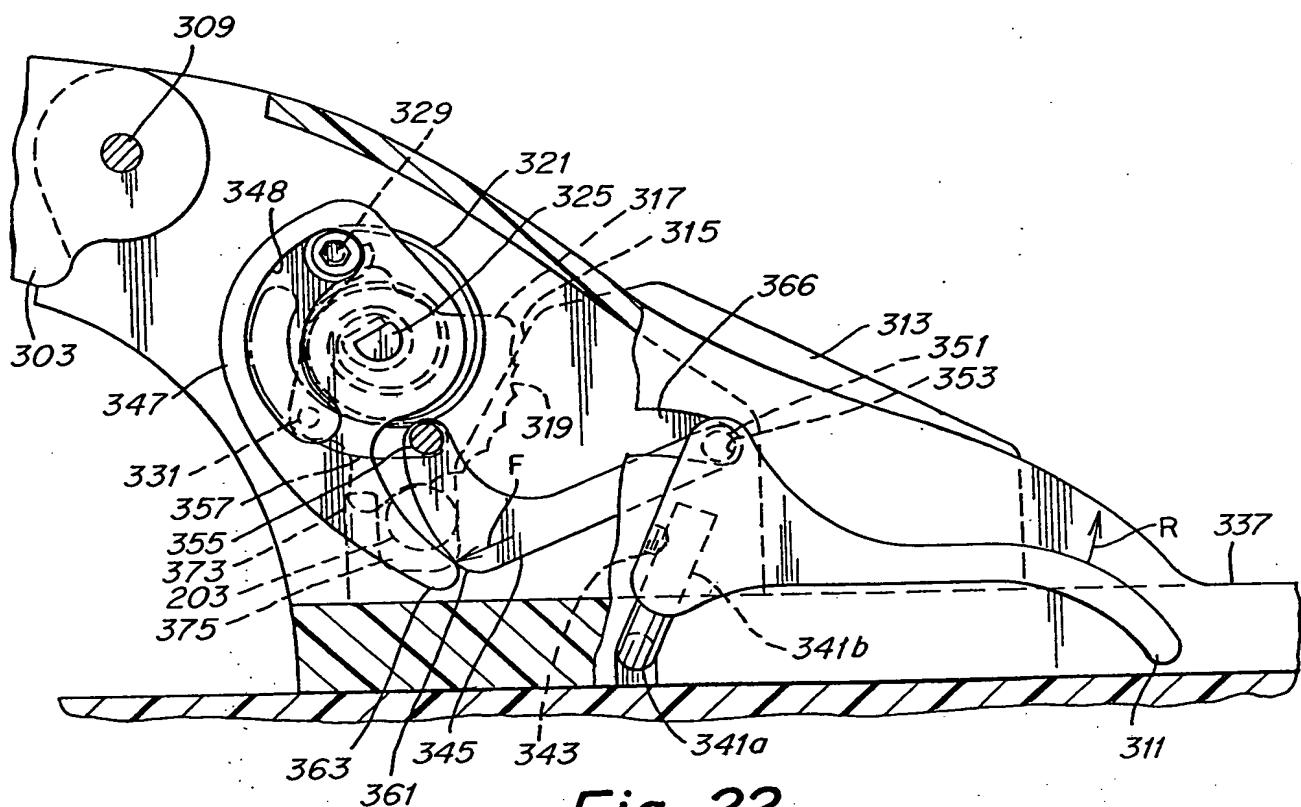


Fig. 22

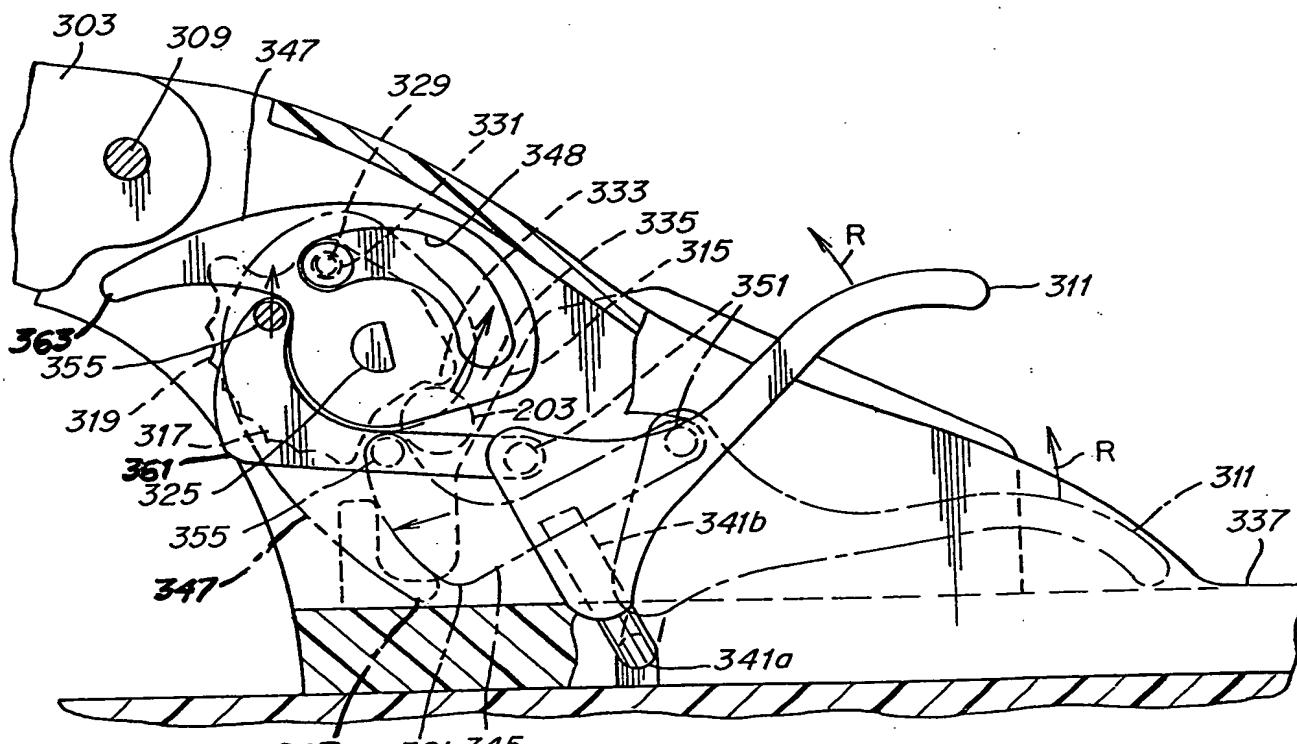


Fig. 23